

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055062

42

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TO AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, BH

SUBJECT: BELIZE-U.S. HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE AGREEMENT

REFS: A) GAWF/GOWEN TELECON, 3/11/75

B) SAN JOSE 901

C) BELIZE 110

1. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
NOW PREPARING TO PUBLISH AMENDMENTS TO CODE OF FEDERAL
REGULATIONS WHICH WILL RESTRICT IMPORTATION OF FRESH,
FORZEN, AND CHILLED BEEF, PORK, AND BEEF OR PORK PRODUCTS
FROM BELIZE INTO THE U.S. AMENDMENTS WILL PLACE BELIZE
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PAGE 02 STATE 055062

ON LISTS OF COUNTRIES WHICH, WHILE FREE OF HOOF AND MOUTH

AND SWINE VESICULAR DISEASES, SUPPLEMENT THEIR MEAT SUPPLY BY IMPORTING ABOVE PRODUCTS FROM COUNTRIES IN WHICH THOSE DISEASES EXIST. FYI; USDA IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT DANGER OF INTRODUCING SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE IN THIS CASE, THROUGH THE PORK PRODUCTS IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND. END FYI.

2. USDA INDICATES IT WILL DEFER PUBLICATION IF CONGEN CAN CERTIFY BY FRIDAY, MARCH 14, THAT PRODUCTS MENTIONED IN REFTELS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM COMMERCIAL CHANNELS AND PLACED IN STORAGE EITHER IN BONDED WAREHOUSE OR UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION OF THE GOB. DEFERRAL WOULD PRESUME SUB-

SEQUENT REMOVAL OF PRODUCTS CONCERNED FROM BELIZE WHETHER THROUGH DESTRUCTION OR RETURN TO COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN. USDA REITERATES THAT NO USG FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT COST OF THESE STEPS.

3. IF AMENDMENTS ARE PUBLISHED, COMMERCIAL EXPORTATION OF FRESH, FROZEN, AND CHILLED BEEF AND PORK FROM BELIZE COULD CONTINUE, BUT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO EXTREMELY RIGOROUS INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. GOB MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO CERTIFY TO USDA SATISFACTION THAT SUCH EXPORTS PROCESSED AND TRANSPORTED SO AS TO AVOID POSSIBILITY OF COMMINGLING WITH AND CONTAMINATION BY PRODUCTS IMPORTED FROM INFECTED COUNTRIES. EXPORT OF COOKED BEEF AND PORK NOT AFFECTED. USDA POINTS OUT THAT CONTINUED PRESENCE OF PRODUCTS IN QUESTION IN COMMERCIAL CHANNELS IN BELIZE POSES REAL THREAT OF INFECTION OF LOCAL LIVESTOCK, THROUGH FEEDING OF GARBAGE TO PIGS. BELIZE THUS RUNS RISK OF BEING SHIFTED LATER TO LIST OF COUNTRIES ACTUALLY INFECTED WITH HOOF AND MOUTH OR SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE. CONGEN SHOULD POINT OUT THIS DANGER TO GOB AS WELL AS MORE IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON GOB PRESTIGE. PRESENT SITUATION JEOPARDIZES POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL CATTLE INDUSTRY AND ENDANGERS WHOLE PROGRAM TO CONTROL SPREAD OF HOOF AND MOUTH AND KEEP SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE OUT OF THIS HEMISPHERE.

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PAGE 03 STATE 055062

4. CONGEN INSTRUCTED TO COMMUNICATE ABOVE TO PREMIER PRICE AND TO REPORT GOB RESPONSE TO DEPT. ASAP. PLEASE STRESS THAT REMOVAL FROM COMMERCE AND STORAGE CONSIDERED ONLY FIRST STEP. USDA WILL BE OBLIGED TO PROCEED WITH PUBLICATION UNLESS PRODUCTS DESTROYED OR REEXPORTED SUBSEQUENTLY. INGERSOLL

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